

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0077-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: Amend COD55331

PROJECT NAME: Chevron Pipeline Re-alignment Next to River

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 1 N., R. 103 W.,
Section 12, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

APPLICANT: Chevron Pipeline Company

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Chevron Pipeline Company (CPL) has sent a "smart pig" to analyze the structural integrity of their pipeline. The data has pointed out three anomalies that need repair within a 620 foot length of pipe. In addition, the anomalies are located in a sliver of area that is adjacent to the White River on the north and Rio Blanco County Road 2 on the south. With the location of the pipe being so close to the White River, CPL is proposing to install a new length of pipe to the south of the existing pipe, as opposed to excavating the pipeline in its existing location.

The old pipe line will be purged of crude oil with nitrogen from Rangely Station to Redwash. Nitrogen will be vented off until a zero pressure is obtained. Vents at both ends will be opened and monitored. Taps will be installed on the pipeline at the replacement sight prior to purge to verify all crude oil is removed. If there is any remaining crude oil in the pipeline, the oil will be removed by vacuum truck. Once the pipeline is free of oil the replacement/abandonment will proceed. The existing pipeline will then be cut on either side of the proposed repair area. The new section of pipe, approximately 620 feet in length, will then be connected to the ends of the remaining pipeline via welding. All welds will be inspected using x-ray. The new replacement pipe will be hydrostatically tested and all connecting welds inspected before the purge date. Hydrostatic testing will be done at a remote facility so as not to introduce any foreign water into the White River. The trench for the new pipe will be excavated prior to the purge and tie-in dates. A swab tool will be pushed through the pipe to verify pipe is crude oil free. A swab tool will be inserted again and pushed through the entire length of the abandoned pipe using a grout/cement mix. This will ensure that there are no remaining voids in the abandoned section. Once the line is filled with grout, caps will be welded to the abandoned section, sealing the grout inside of the pipe. The area will then be backfilled and the terrain brought back to its original condition. The fencing will be repaired and the disturbed ground reseeded with a seed mix

recommended by the BLM. The new relocated line will be identified with above ground markers as required by Chevron Pipe Line and D.O.T. The abandoned line will also be identified with above ground markers, identifying the pipe as ABANDONED.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM 1601.08) the following plan:

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-49

Decision Language: "To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values."

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, E13: *"Amendments to existing rights-of-way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail no additional disturbances outside the right-of-way boundary."*

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) described in the table below.

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
a) Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		X
h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 5/20/2014. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Brian Yaquinto	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	8/25/2014
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	8/21/2014
Justina Thorsen	Seasonal Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	6/4/2014

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The proposed project area has been inventoried at the Class III (100 percent pedestrian) level. No cultural resources are located within the area of potential effect for this project and the current undertaking will cause no impacts to known cultural resources.

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American Religious Concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute Tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken

Special Status Wildlife Species: This project is located within the 100-year floodplain of the White River, which is occupied and designated critical habitat for the endangered Colorado pikeminnow and potential habitat for the threatened Ute ladies'-tresses orchid. Project-specific surveys were conducted in May and August 2014 for the orchid; none were found. The project underwent Section 7 Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with concurrence received 8/20/2014. Complete impact analysis for this project is included in WRFO's Biological Assessment.

Special Status Plant Species: WestWater Engineering conducted a survey for special status plant species on May 15, 2014. The Proposed Action falls within existing disturbance along a County Road that crosses through the White River Riparian Area of Environmental Concern. The Proposed Action also falls within primary potential habitat for federally proposed threatened species Ute lady's tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*). No special status plant species were observed during the survey. There will be no conceivable impacts to special status plants associated with the Proposed Action.

MITIGATION:

1. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The holder will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The holder, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the holder must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
4. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate or other scientifically-important fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over

25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.

5. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the holder or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.
6. For interim reclamation the BLM recommends Seed Mix #8 cited below. It is recommended that seeding occur between September 1 and March 15. Drill seeding is the preferred method of application and drill seeding depth must be no greater than ½ inch. If drill seeding cannot be accomplished, seed should be broadcast at double the rate used for drill seeding, and harrowed into the soil.

WRFO Recommended Reclamation Seed Mix (Rangely-Hanna pipe repair)
(50 seeds per square foot application rate)

Seed Mix	Cultivar	Common Name	Scientific Name	Application Rate (lbs PLS/acre)
8		Inland Saltgrass	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	3
	Rimrock	Indian Ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	3
	Toe Jam Creek	Bottlebrush Squirreltail	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	2.5
	Rosana	Western Wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	4
		Scarlet Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.25
		Annual Sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	2.5
		Shadscale	<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i>	2

COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by the BLM White River Field Office staff during and after construction. Specific mitigation developed in this document will be followed. The operator will be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

NAME OF PREPARER: Janet Doll

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E13. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

08/26/2014

ATTACHMENTS: Maps: Exhibits A and B.

COD55331, Chevron Pipe Line replacement



Exhibit A



0 0.075 0.15 0.3 Miles

Sources:
BLM, USGS, COOW, etc.

Disclaimer:
Although the data presented within this map, and the map itself, have been processed successfully on computers of BLM, no warranty expressed or implied is made by BLM regarding the use of this map or the data represented, nor does the fact of distribution constitute or imply any such warranty.



COD55331, Chevron Pipe Line replacement

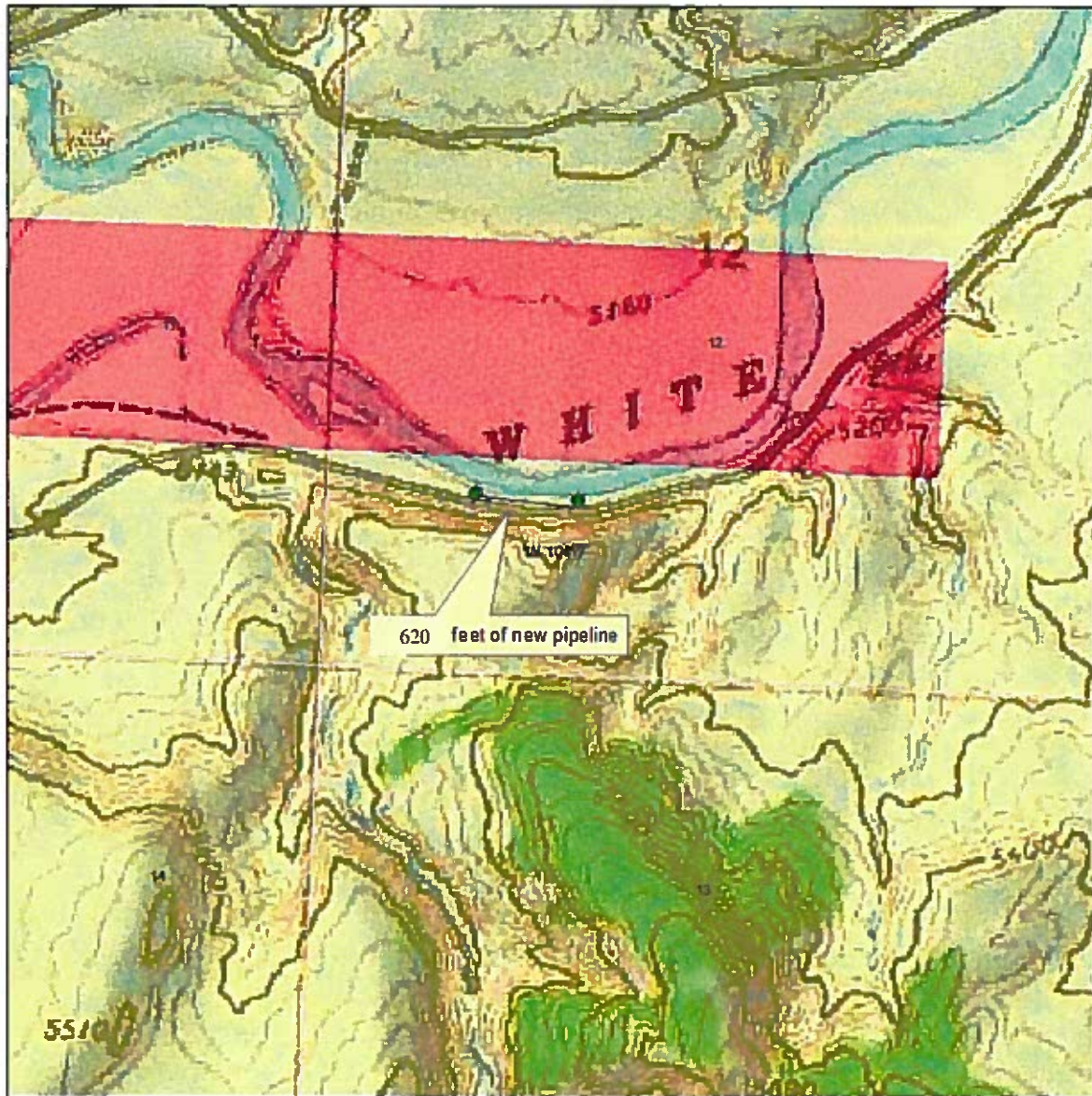


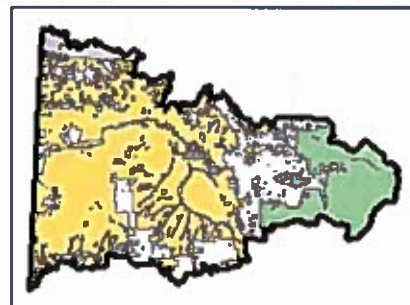
Exhibit B



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

Source:
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Meeker, CO 81641**

DECISION RECORD

PROJECT NAME: Chevron Pipeline Re-alignment Next to River

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0077-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0077-CX, authorizing the maintenance and repair of three anomalies on a Chevron pipeline located adjacent to the White River.

Mitigation Measures

1. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
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COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The BLM informed the public about this project by listing it on the online WRFO NEPA Register on 5/28/2014 and a copy of the completed Categorical Exclusion will be posted on the WRFO website.

RATIONALE

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E13. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the Authorized Officer and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay (43 CFR 2801.10(b)). Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a Notice of Appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at White River Field Office, 220 East Market St., Meeker, CO 81641 with copies sent to the Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, 755 Parfet St., Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215, and to the Department of the Interior, Board of Land Appeals, 801 North Quincy St., MS300-QC, Arlington, VA, 22203. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals at the above address within 30 days after the Notice of Appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

08/26/2014

